



General Meeting

Friday October 12, 2012

7:30pm

Marriott Hotel, SEDONA ROOM

270 Mission College Blvd

Santa Clara

During PACIFICON 2012 !

October Meeting	1
Officers and Appointees	2
President's QTC	3
September Board Minutes	4
September Meeting Minutes	5
"Failure to Communicate !"	6
Fire District Open House	7
Ham Radio Outlet	8
Club Repeaters	9
Club Calendar	9

This Month's Meeting is a Week Early and Will be Held at PACIFICON !



October 12, 13, 14, 2012



Affiliated Club

The MDARC Friday Night Meeting on October 12, 2012 will be in the SEDONA ROOM at the SANTA CLARA MARRIOTT HOTEL. We have arranged a very special night of guest speakers. We have four amateur radio pod-casters coming in from around the country to talk about "new media Elmering". A podcast is a recorded program that is meant to be played on a portable player, such as an iPod or iPhone. You can download podcasts on just about any topic that your heart desires. On this night, we will be looking at amateur radio podcasts - and there are some really great ones! Our guests speakers are Jerry Taylor KD0BIK (Denver), Chris Matthieu N7ICE (Phoenix), Gordon West WB6NOA (Costa Mesa), and Randy Hall K7AGE (Grass Valley). Each one has a different viewpoint and uses wildly different styles to convey their messages. I believe that you will find each of the men absolutely charming and interesting. It promises to be a fun and interesting evening!

- - - Jim Siemons, AF6PU, President



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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

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 Communications Trailer - Brent Morgan, AF6HQ

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ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CLUB YAHOO GROUP. DOWNLOAD FILES, INCLUDING *THE CARRIER* IN FULL COLOR AS WELL AS SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE MEMBERSHIP AT:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mdarc>



PRESIDENT'S QTC

Well, hello to everyone in MDARC-land! I am enjoying the warm days and cool nights of autumn. I keep wondering if the trees are changing color, but I have been keeping my head down and working on PACIFICON so much, I really haven't noticed.

There is so much great amateur radio activity going on right now - it's just awesome! We just had the California QSO Party last weekend. We have all sorts of public service events with runners, bikers, and horses - oh my! Even in my absolutely unscientific search of the bands, it seems there is more activity on many local repeaters. I love to see that.

Great news for the future of ATV on North Peak! We finally have a completed agreement with the tower owner on North Peak, and have our insurance in place. The Club ATV operators and the Club's Tech Committee is working on getting the final equipment necessary to move the ATV gear from South Peak to North Peak. It is expected that the move will begin right after Pacificon. This is really a banner time for our Club. The future of ATV looks very bright.

I am incredibly proud of the Committee Chairs and key staff of PACIFICON. They really have worked tirelessly, and have driven their committees hard. This is going to be a spectacular year, and we seem to be firing on all cylinders. I will tell you something, if you are not participating in PACIFICON, you are really missing out in a lot of fun!

Did you see the news about the proposed FCC changes to VE testing? Lots of stuff going on in the world of licensing. You might want to check it out on ARRL.org.

I hope to see you all at PACIFICON this weekend. It is the ARRL National Convention, and it is not likely to be on the West Coast again for a really long time! Please check out Pacificon.org for all the details!

For the rest of the year, we have great things planned at MDARC. We have an excellent speaker planned for the November meeting, and our Holiday Party on Saturday December 21 is going to be held at Zio Fraedo's in Pleasant Hill. More information to come shortly.

73

Jim Siemons AF6PU



MDARC September Board Meeting minutes

September 10, 2012

Presided over by Jim Siemons
President

The meeting was called to order at 7:16 PM

No minutes were taken last month as there was no formal Board meeting then.

Vice President John said that he has to change the plans for the presentation at this month's meeting. He will report the results later.

President Jim suggested the subject of World Wide Radio be the program for this month's meeting. A short discussion followed with no other tangible suggestions.

The MDARC E.C., Tom Kramer, reported that the Department of Homeland Security / Emergency Communications will be holding a Communications Workshop at the California Emergency Management Agency Hq. in Sacramento November 3d & 4th. He noted the requirements.

John Primus reported that he was recently contacted by the ITT Technical Institute about holding a Technician Class License course at their Concord facility. To date 4 of the 7 classes have been held with count of 10 students attending. After the completion of this course, there will be a VE testing session held at that location on October 4th 2012.

The treasurer reported that bank balances for August and September were less than last year. She attributed this to increased banking costs and charges. She asked about what action to be taken on a maturing CD. After discussion there was motion that was seconded and approved to move the funds to a money market sub-account.

Pacificon Badge samples were passed around for review.

There was a discussion about reporting correspondence to the Board. A conclusion was not reached on this subject.

Tom, our E.C., gave another report; this time about a recent emergency exercise held in Concord. There was an ensuing discussion about the status of ARES in our area.

There was a report that a US astronaut, who holds PHD & MD degrees, will be a speaker at this year's PACIFICON. This event will be co-incidental with an ISS contact and an address given by a retired NASA administration person.

There was no old or new business discussed at this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Fletcher, AF9RF

MDARC September Club Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2012

Presided over by Jim Siemons, AF6PU, President

The meeting took place at 7:30 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Carol Lane in Lafayette, Ca.

The meeting opened with a pledge of allegiance.

The VEC report for the evening was 1 general class passed and 1 extra class attempted.

Trevor Hall reported that he has no tech committee report for this month He did say that the occupancy of Mt Diablo north peak is approved and that we could start the ATV move as soon as we want. President Jim explained the reasons for the delays.

Glen, N06W, reported the status of the local HMM-MESH network and displayed a portable unit. He explained among other parameters that these operations require a clear path that could be afforded by high locations.

President Jim delivered a status report on PACIFICON saying that we are ready for it. He talked about the significance of having the ARRL National Convention as part of this effort. He said that most of the available functions are sold out. We are still looking for volunteers to fill some remaining positions. He called on Lauren Stiles who reported about the prizes available and other activities. Steve, KA6SFT talked about the event station, W1AW/6 saying that many modes will be available and certificates will be awarded.

There was no old or new business at this meeting.

At 8:10 PM there was a presentation of the Employer Support Guard and Reserve organization by Tom Clausen, KG6YVZ.

After the presentation the door prize was awarded and the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Fletcher, AF9RF
Secretary

“What we have here is *failure to communicate* !”

Getting the message through “no matter what” is something hams pride themselves in. But we have a big problem. It's not that we're lacking in equipment or in technical knowledge—it's that we know too much for our own good. In the book, “Made to Stick,” Stanford Professor Chip Heath and Consultant Dan Heath call the problem “the curse of knowledge.”

We've spent years learning ham culture and electronic theory to the point where we are comfortable working in jargon and abstraction all day. “I had my QRP rig on '80 last night and the JA stations were coming in 20 over.”

Jargon and tech speak are fine. They save time and the meaning is clear—as long as you only talk to other old time hams.

The problem is we need new hams—hams who don't know ham speak. We need high school students. We need retirees. We need people of all ages who don't have a background in electronics or radio. We need them, but we're scaring them away from our hobby at the very time when we should be nurturing them.

Imagine for a moment you are Estelle, a 35-year-old woman attending your first Mount Diablo Radio Club meeting. You heard about amateur radio while you were attending a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) meeting. You knew that you wanted to be able to communicate during an emergency, and one of your CERT instructors recommended you get your ham license. So you took a few classes, came to an MDARC meeting, and passed your test.

Out of curiosity, you hang around for the general meeting to see what this ham thing is all about. You patiently sit through a business meeting. A speaker refers to Pacificon. “Is that the club minivan?” you wonder. Next you hear someone talk about bear markings—something called Pave Paws. “What's up with that?” Before long people throw in EMCOMM. Then Echolink--you have no idea what they are talking about. And you start to feel uncomfortable.

You might leave right then, but you got a free raffle ticket, so you hang around. During the break you don't say anything because you are afraid everyone there will know how stupid you are. You hear a couple of guys talking about coils and caps. You feel even more stupid. All these people are obviously experts and geniuses and you're still trying to figure out how to program your hand-held radio.

Finally, the speaker begins. He starts talking about propagation. Something you can't even spell. He lapses into ham speak and begins reading Powerpoint text about F1 and F2 layers. At this point, you thank your lucky stars that you remembered to sit in the back. You quietly get up and sneak out into the night--never to be seen at another ham function.

Now some of you may be thinking “Good riddance. We don't need any more 'technically challenged' hams.” But that's a mistake. MDARC needs all kinds of talents to keep going. What if Estelle had knowledge of a foreign language that is critical to know for emergency communication. Or maybe Estelle is a highly cooperative person who would be willing to help out at events. Or maybe Estelle has critical computer skills that could help the club web page.

Most of us start this hobby knowing very little about it. With the proper nurturing, however, some of us will go on to do important work for the ham community. And all of us have something to contribute.

Here are a few guidelines for nurturing new hams.

Introduce yourself to people you don't know before meetings and during breaks. When you meet newcomers, try to draw them out. Listening is better than talking.

Don't use ham speak. Translate into standard English.

Don't overload them with too much information.

Use common analogies for abstract concepts. “Like water flowing.”

Encourage them to keep going.

Offer to help them with a problem, or refer them to someone who can.

If there's one message we need to get through, it's that new hams are welcome in our hobby.

73 (Best Regards) AD6HD Dale McIntire



Moraga-Orinda Fire District

OPEN HOUSE & Pancake Breakfast



Proceeds benefit the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation



To find out more about the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Pancake Breakfast and Open House, please contact Grace Santos at 925-258-4525 ext. 533 or visit www.mofd.org.



"Have 2 Ways Out!"

National Fire Prevention Week is October 7-13, 2012

Saturday, October 13, 2012

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Breakfast is served at 9:00 am

Station 41

1280 Moraga Way, Moraga

Join Us

★ Child ID & Fingerprinting

★ Smokey the Bear

★ Sparky the Fire Dog

★ Live Demos

★ Fire Truck Bounce House

★ Raffles & Prizes

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The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

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www.mdarc.org



FIRST CLASS

October 12, 13, 14, 2012



W6CX Nets and Repeater Frequencies

Monday 7:00 pm Washington High School Net 147.060+

Monday 8:00 pm SATERN Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm General ATV Net 1241.250+

Tuesday 7:30 pm Fat City 10 meter USB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

FM 147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz - EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057
224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz

D-STAR 145.000 offset plus 2.5 MHz

<http://www.dstarusers.org/viewrepeater.php?system=W6CX>

Dashboard link is: <https://64.81.254.107/status.html>

ATV Input: 1289.25 MHz AM/FM. Outputs 1241.25 MHz AM 919.25 MHz AM

ATV Internet Stream: <http://www.w6cxatv.net/live>

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets

Every Thursday

<http://www.coco-races.org/meetings/nets/>

6:35 pm HF Countywide 3.893 MHz LSB

6:45 pm West County 145.110-- (82.5 PL)

7:00 pm Central County 145.680 Simplex

7:00 pm East County 146.535 Simplex

7:00 pm South County 146.355+ (77.0 PL)

7:20 pm Countywide 145.490-- (107.3 PL)

October 2012 and November 2012 Club Calendar

Friday October 12, 2012

7:30pm MDARC General Meeting -

PACIFICON ARRL National Convention & Expo

Sedona Room, Marriott Hotel, 270 Mission College Blvd, Santa Clara

Saturday November 3, 2012

**9:00am MDARC Technical Committee Meeting -
*Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor Street, Pittsburg***

Monday November 5, 2012

**7:00 pm MDARC Board Meeting
*Black Bear Diner, 700 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek***